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CPYRIGHT Smart Enough for the CIA

The appointment of Vice Admiral William F. Raborn to head the CIA has been widely hailed, despite the paranoic fear in some quarters of "a military man." The admiral's qualifications are candidly stated. He knows nothing about undercover intelligence, although he once did a good job running the Polaris program. He is little known around Washington in recent years, although a decade ago he demonstrated a capability for getting along with Congress. Besides that, last October he took to television to make the statement that Barry Goldwater "is just not smart enough to be President." His nomination figures.

Of course, the CIA is a complicated organization, what with its multi-million dollar budget hidden in the budgets of other government agencies. It functions with security classifications unknown even to top government officials and Congressmen. There was a great security flap last month when McGeorge Bundy, special assistant to the President, appeared in a candid photo in the *New York Times* holding a CIA document plainly marked TOP SECRET—DINAR. The very existence of the DINAR classification is itself a top secret; they usually hang a man for revealing it.

Such Byzantine complexity makes it doubtful that even an Admiral Raborn can master quickly the far-flung foreign operations or the CIA's Washington-based Board of National Estimates. He will have to depend heavily on his newly appointed deputy, Richard M. Helms. Typically, the decisions

in a bureaucracy are strongly influenced by the recommendations and data prepared by the middle echelons. Mr. Helms is a product of this middle bureaucracy, a career man who has been exercising his modest power in intelligence agencies since long before the CIA was established in 1947. In recent years, he held forth from an unmarked building on "I" street as one of the commissars assigned to internal surveillance within the United States.

Back in 1961, Mr. Helms was part of the faction in the CIA which opposed the Bay of Pigs invasion. After the debacle, he was rewarded for his views by being promoted to the job of Deputy Director of Plans, replacing the man who had charge of the Bay of Pigs action, Richard M. Bissell. Mr. Helms has told friends that he is oriented toward the Kennan-Rostow theory that if Soviet power can be confined within its present limits, Communist society will evolve into something mellow. Although this is a controversial theory, the Deputy Director will not need to worry about Congressional criticism. His job is an executive appointment; only the non-controversial admiral need face Congressional scrutiny.

Admiral Raborn will have the benefit of Mr. Helms' experience and philosophy. It is difficult for an outsider to assert control over a bureaucracy, especially one so powerful and self-ingrained. With Mr. Helms to guide him, Admiral Raborn will soon find out whether he himself is smart enough to be head of the CIA.